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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

ER 1504-83/3

21 Mar 83

Ambassador Anne Armstrong
Chairwoman, President's Foreign
Intelligence Advisory Board
Room 340, Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ambassador Armstrong:

During the Director's Worldwide Briefing before your board on March 10, 1983, the National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces, General Atkeson, outlined certain characteristics and capabilities of the new Soviet T-80 tank about which we now have some doubts. He ascribed to the tank a missile-firing capability for greater accuracy at extended ranges. While we still believe this to be true, it should be noted that technical questions have recently come to light about this, and there is not unanimity of view on the point within the Intelligence Community.

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It should be noted that our information on the T-80 is incomplete and that our assessments remain tentative for the time being. The Director has asked for a comprehensive review of the entire Soviet armor/anti-armor problem by the Intelligence Community this spring.

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Sincerely,

/s/

John N. McMahon
Acting Director

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